

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

4 December 1980

DOCUMENT 1-669/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FILIPPI, Mr BARBAGLI,
Mr MACARIO, Mr LIGIOS, Mr ZECCHINO,
Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI, Mr MICHEL and Mr BERSANI
pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure
on the harmonization of the instruments and
rules relating to cooperatives in the EEC
countries

The European Parliament,

- noting that in recent years the problem of unemployment among salaried workers, the crisis in a number of sectors of activity and the positive view taken by young people towards self-employment have highlighted the lasting economic and social value of cooperative undertakings and their potential for development in other than traditional fields,
 - whereas the management and organizational difficulties faced by large undertakings, the economy and efficiency of small and medium-sized productive units and the workers' demand for participation in decision-making and the proceeds of their own work are all factors which tend to enhance the usefulness of cooperatives as an essential component of employment policy,
 - bearing in mind that cooperatives are now operating on an experimental basis in many countries and in new areas of the tertiary sector, ranging from research, planning and consultancy to social services such as home help for the aged and the sick, domestic work, and so forth,
 - noting that, in the EEC Member States alone, cooperatives play a role of indubitable importance, as shown by the scale of activity involved and the social and political impact of the cooperative organizations,
1. Considers it essential that the appropriate Community bodies should follow the development of cooperative activities and organizations with the closest attention;
 2. Hopes that genuine steps will be taken to harmonize the legislation on cooperatives in areas where it concerns the basic rules governing their operation;
 3. Considers that it would be useful to review the proposal to establish a statute for a European cooperative company, following the same line taken by major sectoral Community organizations;
 4. Hopes that in anticipation of the possible outcome of this harmonization the appropriate Community bodies will indicate the requirements which must be satisfied by cooperative organizations in order to be eligible for the aid earmarked by the EEC;
 5. Hopes that the European Economic Community will undertake to enhance the role of cooperatives, giving preference to voluntary organizations of business operators over other types of organization, in pursuit of all the tasks connected with the support or aid measures it intends to implement in certain sectors and geographic areas;

6. Draws the attention of the appropriate EEC bodies to the marked differences in tax regulations and in the system of providing 'auditing assistance' for the cooperative organizations so that the soundness of the methods adopted can be checked and recommendations made to change the system wherever appropriate;
7. Considers it essential for the responsible EEC bodies to issue specific recommendations and directives to prevent the improper or merely speculative use of the legal provisions governing cooperative organizations;
8. Requests the responsible Community bodies to look closely at the question of allocating more than one vote per member in the basic organization (as provided for in Germany) and of allowing cooperatives the option of changing their status to that of an ordinary company, in order to establish whether, in the context of harmonization, this should be made a general rule or whether this option should be abolished where it exists;
9. Emphasizes the need for an adequate increase in the funds allocated to the support and encouragement of cooperative undertakings in the next draft budget of the Community;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

